

神無月紅

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イラスト◆夕薙



5

legend

Reiji Saeki, an ordinary boy living in rural *Tohoku* region, has died. All seems to be over... Yet, he wakes up, to a vision full of glimmering white, with a glowing sphere, floating right in front. The sphere claims to be, an musician from another dimension, in search of a heir to pass on the witchcraft it has perfected. With the magical powers and a new physical existence, *Reiji's* adventure in *Elgin*, the magical world begins...

Legend

Arc 5 - Gamelion

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Chapter 168

"Huh? Have you already stripped the materials from the Harpies?"

It was the day after he finished stripping the materials from all the monsters with the members of Eternal Power. That was Freon and Brazos' reply when then came over to the inn after Rei had told them the Harpies had already been dismantled.

"Ah. You know I had posted a request for stripping materials from monsters? I finished that yesterday and dismantled the Harpies as well."

".....No, that is.....ahh, since you didn't specify what monsters were going to be dismantled, I guess that's fine."

Freon looked a little puzzled, but then remembered the contents of the request Rei had submitted. She gave a small nod in understanding.

"Well, I was out late dismantling monsters yesterday. Because sunset is starting to come early, it got quite busy near to the end."

Rei said that with a sigh.

By the time yesterday's request was completed, the sun was already setting. Naturally, when night fell outside the city, it became a world where monsters lurked. Especially since Eternal Power had most of their weapons and armour being repaired, they started hurriedly dismantling the monsters as the sun fell.

"You are quite.....no, in a sense that's just Rei."

Freon said that in amazement but pulled herself together called out to Rei again.

"In that case, regarding the Harpy materials as had been agreed on."

"Mm. Rei will take two magic stones. Everything else, including the remaining magic stones, will be sold to the guild."

"I don't have any problems with that. Well then, shall we go?"

Nodding at Rei's words, the three of them were about to head for the guild.

"The sky is quite dark."

Rei muttered as he left the inn and looked up to the sky.

The sky was filled with clouds and it wouldn't be strange if it started to rain.

"Well, I guess it's good that it wasn't raining when I was dismantling monsters yesterday."

"Mm. At times like this, it's best to relax at a bar. I was tired yesterday and couldn't take my time drinking."

"Don't lie, that's a lie. You stayed at the bar the whole time."

The two of them were already having their usual exchanges as Rei headed to the stables to pick up Set.

"Here, Set-chan. Eat this."

A five year old boy held a sandwich in his hand as he held it out to Set.

"Gururu~"

While watching this already familiar scene, Rei ate some skewers he bought at a street stall with relish.

"Rei, here, how about this. Kelpie skewers."

"Kelpie is it?"

The owner of the skewer stall called out to Rei, who was watching Set play with the children. But it was not Rei but Brazos who responded.

"Speaking of Kelpies, they're a rank C monster. You're great to get your hand on that."

Next to Brazos, Freon, who had also been watching Set, spoke in surprise.

"That's quite expensive. Hey, is there a merchant team led by Vettman in Gilm right now? Products they sell have started to come out."

".....Ah."

At the skewer stall owner's remark, Rei remembered the sociable merchant he had met at the Dusk Wheat.

(Come to think of it, I wondered what happened to the adventurers I asked them to secure? I think they should have freed them since Azoth Firm's matter

has already been settled.Well, if they prolonged their restraint, it's probably because they will benefit from it somehow. I don't need to care about that.)

Rei thought to himself, but actually, the adventurers captured by Vettman had already been escorted out by the knight who came to the inn yesterday. Even if they called it a request, conducting a surprise attack in the inn.....or to be exact in the stables of the inn, was still a crime. Galahat, now the president of Azoth Firm, was currently steadily increasing his forces by bailing the adventurers that had committed crimes from Bolton's orders.

In any case, Azoth Firm exported unique monster materials that could only be found at the various frontier cities and villages. They also exported weapons made from those materials. However, it wasn't so easy with their poor reputation, so they needed a combat force that could serve as an escort.

For Daska, the lord of the city of Gilm, tax revenue paid would decrease if Azoth Firm's sales declined, so he allowed the adventurers to be released on bail.

However, that was after they were warned that there would be a corresponding punishment the next time they committed any crimes.

"Even then, to put Kelpies, a C rank monster, onto the market.....those merchants must be quite skilled."

Brazos spoke in satisfaction as he held a Kelpie skewer.

The meat was so soft that you could bite into it without any effort from the jaws. However, as you chewed and savoured the meat, the salty sauce used, meat juices and seasonings exuded an exquisite taste in the mouth. And the next moment, the meat would disappear like mist, only leaving that taste in your mouth.

"Kuu~, it's delicious. Owner, two more.....no, five more."

"Ah, I'm sorry. Even though I said I have Kelpie meat, I don't have that much. My apologies, but please make do with one."

".....Mm, is that so. I wonder if I can take up a Kelpie subjugation mission in the near future....."

At the owners words, Brazos muttered to himself unintentionally. But the

next moment, Freon's fist swung down at the back of his head.

"Guh!?"

"Don't say stupid things. I won't accept such dangerous subjugation requests just so you can have snacks with your liquor."

".....Why isn't that possible? Freon, if you try it, you'll understand."

"Shut up. Don't make me repeat myself again, seriously. Hey, stop eating and follow Rei and Set. Don't we have to sell the Harpy materials at the guild?"

Freon said that while dragging Brazos along. Seeing that, Rei and Set apologised to the people in the surroundings and left the place.

.....Of course, that was after he bought some skewers and sandwiches.

"Hm? You brought over a lot of materials and magic stones to sell yesterday, do you need something at the guild again? Ah, are you looking for a request?"

Lenora called out to Rei when he entered the guild.

After all, the amount of materials and magic stones he had obtained from yesterday's dismantling was enormous. All the staff available in the guild were tasked with dividing it up to assess it all.

Of course, Culotte, Scola and Eternal Power in general weren't going to stay for that. They quickly went home after collecting their reward from Rei, leaving him by himself.

"Work that is both profitable and fun is rare."

Those words from an exhausted Culotte left an odd impression on Rei.

"No, I'm here to sell materials today as well."

".....Eh!? No, but yesterday....."

Lenora had a stunned expression at Rei's words. Next to her, Kenny, who showed some favouritism towards Rei, also had a stunned expression.

Seeing the similar expressions, Rei gave a wry smile.

"What I brought today are Harpy materials. Here, this is the request I took with those two."

Saying that, Rei looked behind him towards Freon and Brazos.

The two of them looked back at Rei, wondering how large an amount of material he had brought in.

.....In addition, for the Water Monkey eyes, which Scola and Rei had differing thoughts on, it turned out the the book Scola had was right. To be exact, Water Monkey eyes were still bought as materials 10 years ago. It was a material that alchemists had stopped using because a more effective and cheaper catalyst had since been found. In an area where materials were scarce, not at the frontier, someone might use it. But at the very least, they were no longer used in the city of Gilm. In addition, because there was no one who would transport them due to the difficulties in preserving them the price of the eyes was almost nothing.

Such a situation occurred because the book Rei had was old, no one could be blamed so he had no choice but to sigh and give it up. Even so, the guild had bought a large amount of materials so he wasn't really worried to cover the cost of the extra expenditure.

"In other words, you don't have to worry so much. There aren't that many materials."

Saying that, he took out the right ears of the Harpies, which were the proofs of subjugation, their claws and their tail feathers, which were the other materials he had stripped from them. Lastly he also took out their magic stones.

Of course, the two magic stones which had been promised beforehand as Rei's share had already been taken by him.

"That's certainly not as much. We can appraise these right away so please wait a moment."

Saying that, Lenora promptly collected the right ear proofs of subjugation.

"Kenny, proofs of subjugation, please."

"I understand. Since it's for Rei-kun, I have to work hard."

".....Because you're like that I can't trust you with material appraisal. Even yesterday you appraised the materials too kindly."

"Ahahahaha. Yes, but look here. Considering the state of the materials as a whole, it wasn't so bad right?"

At Kenny's mischievous smile, Lenora gave a sigh and went back to appraising the materials.

"This is.....ahh, did you ask Eternal Power to do this as well yesterday? The characteristics of how the materials were stripped are similar."

"Ah. But regarding the Harpy materials, it was part of Brazos' request. I can't cash them in on my own can I?"

"That's true. Sometimes I hear stories about people selling off materials in the guild or at other stores without any issue, but I've also heard cases where there was trouble after it because of that. In some bad cases, the party even breaks up because of it.Heh~, it was the same yesterday, but these materials have been stripped quite nicely and are in good condition. Especially the Harpy tail feathers. If used to make arrows, they should be able to make some high quality arrows. Of course other parts are necessary as well."

Nodding in admiration, Lenora carefully gathered up the Harpy tail feathers. Next, she looked at the Harpy claws.

".....I heard that Harpy claws can also be used as materials, but how are they actually used? Are they used by alchemists?"

"In addition to that, there's also a method to attach it to the surface of armour. It's like an aggressive set of armour that can be used to hook onto the body of the enemy. It can also be embedded to the ends of clubs. It's a material with quite a lot of uses."

Saying that in a good mood, the last thing Lenora looked at were the magic stones.

"There are no chips or scratches here.....it's a good magic stone."

As for the magic stones, she just quickly looked at their outer appearance before taking them and the materials to the back of the counters.

"Please wait a moment. Kenny, how is it?"

"I've already prepared everything. Here it is. This is their share for the proofs of subjugation."

She had already prepared the amount. There were several silver coins inside the counter.

Lenora checked it, gave a small nod and left Kenny to handle the procedures with Rei.

Of course, Kenny wouldn't complain at having a chance to talk with Rei.....no, rather, to start a happy conversation with him.

"By the way, have you heard about Azoth Firm?"

The topic that Kenny brought up was in a sense the topic that was garnering the most attention in the city of Gilm.

"Ah, more or less. I heard the president has changed."

Because he had been given some hush money, Rei couldn't really talk about the details, so he talked along to pretend he didn't know much.

"Yes, yes. The merchants registered with the guild haven't said anything, but it seems the space has opened up considerably compared to before regarding the trade of weapons."

".....Merchants registered with the guild?"

Rei tilted his head unexpectedly at Kenny's words.

While internally raising a cheer at Rei's expression, Kenny nodded with a smile.

"That, you don't know about it? A few merchants hunt monsters themselves to collect materials and make weapons. They can then use the weapons they make or sell them"

"I see."

(Certainly, if they can supply the materials themselves and make weapons and armour, they can sell them and save on the cost of paying other adventurers to purchase materials.On the other hand, an adventurer and blacksmith at the same time as well. That means that they're doing the three roles of a weapons shop by themselves.....is that possible? No, well, I guess it is possible since there are people doing it.)

Kenny kept talking with a smile as Rei thought to himself.

"I don't know the details of what happened, but it's good for the city of Gilm. Ah, yes, yes. After today's work is over, would you like to head over to a

merchant's shop together? I think Rei-kun will learn a lot.Ow-!"

A hand extended out from behind Kenny, who had just invited Rei, and pulled on her cat ears.

Naturally, the person who did that was Lenora, who you could call Kenny's close colleague.

"As expected, this happens as soon as I take my eyes off you. Please restrain yourself.No, in this case, you should rather scorn yourself."

TLN: The characters for self-restraint and self-derision are pronounced similarly.

The pronunciation was the same but those words had two different meanings. Kenny pouted and protested.

"Wait, that's not nice!?"

"Sorry for making you wait. This is the amount we will purchase it for."

Lenora handed the money over to Kenny who then passed it on.

Seeing their usual interaction, Rei received the money while smiling.

On a side note, after they got back to the inn, Set tried to absorb a Harpy magic stone while another was cut by the Death Scythe. But because no skill absorption happened, the two magic stones were wasted.

Chapter 169

".....How did this happen."

It had been about 2 weeks since the matter of Azoth Firm had been settled. Late autumn had already passed and winter was coming. The weather outside had already become quite cold, as Rei gave a sigh.

But even though the temperature was starting to drop.....even if got hotter instead of colder, because the Dragon Robe had the effect of keeping a comfortable temperature around the wearer. Rei wouldn't be particularly affected unless it started snowing, which would make it difficult for him to walk.

Rei was currently in the guild. For the past two weeks, Rei had just been reading books at the library and purchasing tools he needed in order to relieve his fatigue. Finishing his break, he decided to come to the guild to take on one more request before winter fully arrived.But just as he was looking for a good request, an adventurer suddenly called out to him. When he asked for Rei's name and Rei told him, the other adventurer unexpectedly bowed his head.

Because Rei didn't like crowds, he usually visited the guild between late morning and noon. It was almost 10am. Because of that, there weren't a lot of adventurers in the guild. Still, there were few around the area. Under such circumstances, someone suddenly bowed their head towards him. Naturally, Rei and the adventurer who was bowing their head stood out conspicuously. Yes, it was quite a spectacle.

With the situation reaching this state, he wasn't too worried about it anymore. Still, being treated like a spectacle, Rei gave a sigh before speaking.

"For now, just raise your head."

"Then, could you listen to my story!?"

At those words, which indicated that he wouldn't raise his head until Rei agreed to listen to him, Rei gave another sigh.

".....I understand. I'll listen to your story. In that case, go reserve some seats at the bar. I'll come over as soon as I finish my errands."

"Really!? Thank you very much!"

Raising his head vigorously, Rei was able to see what look was on his face for the first time.

In terms of appearance, he looked about Rei's age.....no, if Rei looked about 15, the other adventurer looked to be around 18. In this world of Elgin, he was already a young man that could stand on his own. His hair was a blonde.....or closer to a yellow and he had a somewhat serious look. He was equipped with a leather armour reinforced with metal pieces at certain points, which emphasised mobility. He also has a long sword at his waist. However, it was thinner than an ordinary long sword. Naturally, the sheath for the long sword was also narrow than a ordinary long sword.

(Is that weapon the so called estoc?)

Estoc. It was a thin sword that could be called delicate compared to an ordinary long sword. Basically it was a sword specialised for thrusting rather than slashing. It wasn't possible to use it to block an enemy attack. No, if you wanted to you could, but if it was done poorly, the blade could just snap right off. Regarding thrusts and stabs, which were the biggest strength of an estoc, the estoc would still break if it hit a decent metal armour. It could be called the weapon of an expert who loved to aim at points like joints which were not covered by armour. At the very least, it wasn't a weapon for beginners.

(In that case.....he should be an adventurer with some level of skill?)

Thinking to himself, he saw the back of the man as he left for the bar inside the guild.

The way he walked certainly showed that he was someone with some skill.

"Now then, another mess.....I hope it isn't one."

It had been two weeks since the Azoth Firm power struggle. The confusion among the weapons shops in the city of Gilm had finally settled down and the normal bustle was coming back. Although it wasn't a big issue for the general public, it had been a rather troublesome issue to adventurers, since weapons

were essential to them. Well, regardless, Rei had still taken a few weeks off for vacation.

Since the war with the Bestir Empire was guaranteed to start next spring, at the very least, he wanted to spend a calm winter. While thinking like that, Rei headed for the counter.

"Ahaha. You're quite conspicuous, Rei-kun."

"Hey, Kenny! Don't be so noisy. So then, uh, Rei-san. What business do you have today? You don't seem to have a request form."

Rei shook his head at Lenora, who had glanced at his hands as she spoke.

"No, I want to know more about the man from just before. It was the first time I've ever had someone suddenly bow their head at me."

If there were adventurers that Rei knew in the guild, he might have asked them for information. However, it was just before noon, most ordinary adventurers had already picked up requests and there weren't a lot of adventurers inside the guild. And among the remaining ones, Rei didn't know any of them.

On the contrary, there were actually quite a few adventurers who had heard of Rei. Although Rei was originally quite prominent in various ways, his skill and ruthlessness had become more well known than ever due to his flashy dispute with the adventurers of Azoth Firm because of Bolton and Galahat's case. Because of that, few people would try to speak with him.

"Well, I can't speak about his skill, but I can tell you about his general reputation."

"That's fine."

Rei nodded at Lenora's words.

But just as Lenora was about to speak, Kenny squeezed her body forward.

"Ah, then I can tell you since I'm free."

"Wai-, Kenny!?"

"Because I have a more outgoing attitude, I know a lot more stories than Lenora."

Kenny, a catkin, turned to look Rei in the eyes while giving a purr like a real

cat.

.....This was because Kenny had sat down. In fact, standing up, Kenny was actually a little taller.

"Ahh, I see."

Rei glanced at Lenora. Seeing that, Lenora nodded back and shrugged her shoulders as if she had no choice.

"I understand. Well then.....I'll leave him to you."

"Leave it to me. His name is Hasta-kun. A D rank adventurer from this city. He rose to D rank roughly about a year ago, so I guess you could call him a veteran. As Rei-kun saw before, he has a straightforward personality. His parents seem to operate a restaurant near the library."

"Heh~, a restaurant.Mm? He's a D rank adventurer, but what about his party?"

"Hasta-kun works solo, just like you Rei-kun."

Rei was surprised at Kenny's words.

Of course, he knew that there were other adventurers other than himself. Among Rei's own acquaintances, there was Runo with his magic eye that could see magic power. However, it was still true that there were far less solo adventurers. As for the reason why, some lacked confidence in their own skill, other had personality problems and couldn't stay in a party. Then there were the ones who had their own secrets they did not want to talk about, like Rei.

"Even though you say that, it's unusual to be solo at D rank. Is there any reason?"

"If you could call it a reason, it seems that Hasta-kun became an adventurer in the first place to help his family. As I said before, his parents run a restaurant. So if they could use the meat of monsters he kills, I guess the raw food cost would be considerably cheaper?"

".....I see. If he works with a party, it will be necessary to share the rewards. However, it should be possible to split the meat with the magic stones....."

At that question that Rei just thought of, Kenny lightly shrugged her eyes. At the same time, Lenora had been listening to the story from behind Kenny.

"At the beginning, as Rei-kun says, there were times where he formed a party and split the meat with the magic stones. But, there were disputes about how to distribute everything. In the end the party broke up. At that time he was still an E rank adventurer. But ever since Hasta-kun got to his current level of strength, he's been active solo."

"I see. He certainly seems to have a level of skill."

Rei thought back to how Hasta had moved himself when he left for the bar.

"I have a rough understanding. I'll decide what to do after hearing his story."

"Yes. So.....if possible, could you help him?"

After Kenny's somewhat worried words, Rei headed for the bar where Hasta was waiting.

"Sorry I made you wait."

"No, it's fine. I'm sorry for taking up your time."

When Rei arrived at his seat, Hasta had bowed his head to the extent that his forehead was almost touching the table.

"Ah, since you took the trouble to hear me out, I'll pay for today.But though I say that, I don't have much money so keep to the cheap ones please."

Rei nodded at Hasta, who said that with an embarrassed smile, and ordered a set of warm soup, skewer and bread from an approaching waitress. It was a little early for lunch.But with Rei's poor energy efficiency, this amount of food just amounted to snacks before lunch.

"Well then, aside from that."

He was relieved that it was a cheap set. Hasta also ordered similar dishes.

While watching the waitress head to the kitchen, Rei lowered the hood of his Dragon Robe and turned back to Hasta.

"Wow, you really are younger than me aren't you."

Hasta was surprised to see Rei's childlike face. However, Rei was already accustomed to such reactions and spoke without any particular concern.

"Well then. So, I'll be blunt, but what do you want me for? Coming over to me and suddenly bowing your head, you must be quite troubled?"

".....Yes. Actually, my parents run a restaurant. So I let my father and mother use the meat of the monsters I kill."

(Selling the meat I have inside the Misty Ring to him cheaply, is this how it will go?)

Rei anticipated that. Anyhow, with a body over 2m in size.....Set was still getting bigger recently. Rei's Misty Ring stored a lot of meat to let Set eat until he was full. The Orc meat he had had decreased by a large amount but there was still quite a bit left. He also had large quantities of Water Monkey meat, from the ones he had killed in the dungeon. In addition, Rei also had a wide variety of other monster meat. That was why he thought Hasta's goal was the meat he had.....

"No, not that."

Hasta realised it from Rei's expression and denied it himself before he was asked.

"I heard that Rei-san is accompanied by a Griffon and that you collect monster meat for it. So it may look like that's what I've come to you for, but what I actually want is to borrow Rei-san's strength."

".....Borrow my strength?"

"Yes. Actually, it's changing from autumn to winter.....it seems. A certain monster starts to appear during this change in seasons. But it's not near the city of Gilm but in the grasslands about half a day away. "

Grasslands about half a day away from the city of Gilm. When he was told that, the plains where he and Set dropped by whenever they acquired new skills pass through his mind.

"That is, is it the plains on the way towards the Forest of Monsters from the city of Gilm."

"Ah, do you know already? That's right. I would like to cooperate with you to hunt some monsters that come out there."

".....Cooperation, is it. Couldn't you just post a request?"

When Rei asked as he turned to look at the request board, Hasta shook his head with a bitter smile.

"If I hired adventurers, that would cost money. Especially since I'm in some financial difficulty at the moment.So I had planned to go hunt the monster myself. However, because the strength of me alone is lacking, I looked for Reisan, who is the same rank as me and is also active solo. Of course, there are various other reasons for choosing you....."

"I see."

(This is the first time an adventurer has given me a request directly without going through the guild.)

Rei spoke while thinking to himself.

"By the way, what kind of monster is it that would make you look for me to cooperate with you?"

"It's a Gamelion."

Chapter 170

Rei tilted his head at the name of the monster that was spoken by Hasta, the adventurer sitting opposite him in the guild tavern.

"Gamelion?"

Rei was puzzled at the monster name which he hadn't heard of before. He looked through Zepairu's knowledge, but there wasn't a monster called Gamelion in it.

"I'm sorry, but this is the first time I've heard of this monster. What kind of monster is it?"

"Huh? You don't know? It's a famous monster in this city."

At Hasta's justifiable response, Rei involuntarily gave a wry smile.

"It hasn't been that long since I came to the city of Gilm. Even if it is common knowledge in Gilm, there are still many things I don't know. So please tell me about it if you don't mind."

"Ah, now that you mention it....."

He seemed to recall something at Rei's words. With a small nod, Hasta was about to speak again.....

"Sorry for making you wait."

The waitress at the tavern brought the ordered dishes.

Thanking her briefly, Hasta reached out for a skewer after paying for them.

"Let's eat first. It's courtesy to eat the food while it's still hot."

"I certainly don't want to have to eat cold skewers."

Rei agreed with Hasta's words and asked a question as he reached for a skewer as well.

"So did you say a Gamelion? Tell me what kind of monster it is."

"Ah, yes. As I mentioned earlier, Gamelions are a monster that appears in the grasslands near the city of Gilm during the season change from autumn to

winter. It's appearance.....that's right, I guess a huge rabbit would be the best way to describe it?"

".....A rabbit?"

After more than a year since he was promoted to D rank, Hasta, who could now be considered a veteran, had asked Rei to help him to hunt a monster. Although not as far as a Dragon, Rei had imagined a monster that was on a similar level to the Spriggan he had fought in the dungeon.

Are you serious? Although Rei's question included that meaning, Hasta nodded with a serious expression.

"Yes, it's a rabbit. But even though I say that, of course it isn't an ordinary rabbit. It's a ferocious monster which just happens to have a similar appearance to a rabbit. It's about 3m in length and the fur that covers it's body gives it very high defense that makes it hard for bladed weapons to cut through. It's main methods of attack are it's long ears, which are as sharp as blades, and its fangs, which it uses to bite and inject poison into its target. Their tails are usually about 1m long and can be swung like a whip. As these are all instantaneous high offensive power attacks, characteristic of rabbits, it's a very difficult rank C monster."

".....A rabbit?"

Rei asked the same question as before.

Speaking of rabbits, Rei would occasionally see them in the mountains near his parents house where he lived before he came to Elgin. They were about 30cm in length, so at the very least, 3m rabbits were outside of his imagination.

"Yes. It's a rabbit. However, as I said earlier, it only looks like a rabbit in appearance, its nature is that of a monster."

".....I guess."

Rei tried to visualise the explanation he was told in his mind, but it was hardly what he could call a rabbit.

"So what do you think? Could you lend me a hand?"

At Hasta's question, Rei chewed his bread and drank some soup before speaking.

"I want to hear a few things first. Depending on the result, this request.....no, I will decide whether to accept this request or not based on it."

"Yes. I understand."

Rei asked his questions after seeing Hasta nod docilely at his words.

"First of all. What the benefits of accepting your request? You told me that you couldn't post a request through the guild because you didn't have the money to pay the reward. In that case, isn't it obvious that you don't have the money to to pay me anything either?"

"That is right. However, I've heard that Rei-san is a collector of magic stones. In the end, what I want is the meat of the Gamelion to use it in the restaurant. Regarding the magic stones and materials, you can take them all."

At those words, Reid suddenly recalled what he had heard from Kenny.

"If I'm not mistaken, when you formed a party previously, I heard that there were problems with that arrangement?"

"Ahh.....so you heard. That is certainly so, but it's not a problem if we're just dividing the Gamelion this time only right? All I want is the meat. What Rei-san wants is the magic stone. I can hand all the materials over."

"I see. Well, I'm fine with that. This last question has nothing to do with the request, but why do you know that I'm collecting magic stones?"

Rei hadn't openly declared that he was collecting magic stones and he hadn't told a lot of people either. He wondered how Hasta knew it and asked.....

"Eh? Rei-san, you didn't know that you are famous among the adventurers in the city of Gilm?"

Hasta responded as such with a surprised expression when he was asked.

".....What?"

"In the first place, the materials and proofs of subjugation that Rei-san has brought to the guild is abnormally high for a solo adventurer. And for that reason, it's become pretty well known that the magic stones, that can be sold for the most, does not match the amount of materials that are sold."

"Is that so?"

"Yes. It's rare for a solo adventurer to earn that much. So, when the person in charge of selling materials noticed that the number of magic stones didn't

match up with the amount of materials, it became widely known."

".....I see."

Hearing the harmless answer, Rei involuntarily gave a sigh.

If the guild wasn't where adventurers gathered, maybe he should have sold his materials directly to stores.....Rei thought about it to himself, but he dropped the thought as soon as he considered the troublesome price negotiations he would have to go through. After all, as Hasta said, the amount of materials Rei provided was closer to that of a party of adventurers than someone working solo. If he had to negotiate with sly merchants every time, instead of having to negotiate, he would rather sell the materials to the guild, who would at a fixed price, even if it was for a little less.

Ahem.

Clearing his throat, Rei continued talking.

"So, going back to the main topic. Since you asked to work with me, have you considered what to do if I turned you down? For example, going to hunt the monster by yourself. If you did that, you wouldn't need to bother with splitting the meat and materials."

"Of course I had considered that possibility. However, I received advice from a certain person. If I explained the circumstances to Rei-san, he probably won't bluntly refuse."

Rei's cheeks twitched at those words.

There weren't many people in the city of Gilm that he was acquainted with. Even then, he couldn't think of who would say something like that.

"Who was it that told you such annoying things."

"That is, it was Pamidor-san, a blacksmith in the neighbourhood."

Pamidor, a blacksmith. Hearing those two words, a tough looking face that reminded Rei of a bandit popped into his mind.

"That guy."

"Yes. Although it hasn't been long since he moved here, he's quite famous around the area. The gap between his looks and his personality is amazing."

".....I guess."

(That said, if Pamidor introduced him, I don't have a reason to decline. What I heard from Brazos was that he is one of the most talented smiths in the country. When Azoth Firm my enemy, he ignored the order to not do business with me. I want to get along with someone of that character. If he doesn't forget any favours, I won't forget either.)

Rei quickly calculated in his mind before speaking.

"It can't be helped. If it's an introduction from Pamidor, I can't really refuse it. I'll help you to hunt some Gamelions. It's hard to ignore magic stones from monsters that only show up at this time."

"Thank you very much."

"So, since I've agreed to that, when are we actually heading out there....."

"That is, before that, I would like to confirm, but is it really true that you have an item box?"

"Mm? Ah. So it's about that. Here."

As soon as he said that, Rei took out a sheathed dagger from the Misty Ring.

Seeing that, Hasta gave a beaming smile.

"Wow, it really is an item box.It's the first time I've seen the real thing."

"It seems there are only a few in existence, so why do you need to confirm that I have one?"

"Yes. That right. As I said, Gamelions are about 3m in length.....that is to say, if possible, would you mind letting me use your item box to store the meat?"

"....."

"Of course, I won't ask you to do it for free!"

Although Rei was just lost in thought for a moment when he asked about the item box, Hasta immediately continued the moment he saw Rei pause.

For Rei, it was what he usually did, so there weren't any problems in particular. But for ordinary adventurers, it felt like it was a very great honour to be able to use such a rare magic item that the item box was.

(In that case, I can check how serious he is with this.)

Thinking to himself, Rei spoke up while looking at Hasta.

"But you said that you basically have no money, what do you have to offer

me?"

"Certainly, I don't have that much money to spend. Because of that, I can provide labour."

"Labour?"

"Yes. Rei-san has defeated a lot of monsters, but you're not that great at stripping materials and dismantling the monsters right? Since I was small, I've helped to dismantle monsters in the restaurant at my house, so I'm used to that work. Because of that, I believe I can be Rei-san's strength in that sense. Of course, I won't say for forever from now on.....but how about I can strip materials for you for free 10 times from now?"

".....Hou~."

At that unexpected proposal, Rei nodded in admiration.

As for Rei, he was quite attracted by Hasta's proposal, since stripping materials and extracting magic stones wasn't really something he was that good at. It was also obviously beneficial to Rei that he didn't have to take the trouble of going through the guild. At the very least, he didn't need to go through the time consuming interviews.

"That's certainly an attractive proposal.But, why do you just want the meat of a monster like a Gamelion? I guess if it only appears in this season, it would be quite rare."

Hasta stayed silent for a few seconds, but eventually started talking.

"Actually, my parent's restaurant currently has a small debt. I want to return it as soon as possible."

"A debt?"

"Yes. Ah, of course, we didn't borrow from a nasty merchant or take over a friend's debts. That debt is purely from when we borrowed money to expand our restaurants facilities. The loan didn't carry particularly high interest.But, since my childhood, my parents have brought me telling me how to lend and borrow money. Seeing their current circumstances of debt.....I don't feel good about it."

With some embarrassment, Hasta drank some of the soup, that was already starting to go cold.

"So, your solution to the debt is the Gamelion?"

"Yes. As a rank C monster, its meat is considerably delicious. More than anything, it's also really rare because of its seasonality."

".....But if you have a debt, isn't better to have the magic stones and materials rather than just the meat?"

"Ahahaha. I also said that, but my father shouted[We are not so unreliable to have rely on our children to bear our debt!]. As a compromise, instead of bringing them the usual monster meat for the restaurant, I decided to bring in the meat of higher ranking monsters that can be used for higher priced dishes."

"I see."

Rei nodded, but predicted that even if it was used to cook more expensive dishes, it wouldn't be possible to sell it all right away. Anyhow, there weren't really that many people who could order higher class dishes.

(Well, if it's a monster about 3m in size, they can probably sell all the meat before it starts going off.)

As Rei nodded, Hasta, who had answered cheerfully up until now, hesitated to speak up.

"That's right. Actually, I heard a story from one of my father's acquaintances a while ago."

"A story?"

"Yes. My father's acquaintance owns a street stall, the kind that sells simple snacks like sandwiches and skewers. So, he said that after receiving a little advice from Rei-san, the taste of his dish improved and his sales also increased. Because of that, I was wondering if you could give some advice about our restaurant."

Saying that, the owner of a street stall who often gave sandwiches to Set appeared in Rei's mind. Since that owner loved Set, Rei often bought sandwiches for him at that stall. As thanks, Rei taught him a simple toasted sandwich recipe. It was pretty much just a sandwich that was toasted, it was a recipe that couldn't really be called a recipe. But at the very least, it seemed that toasted sandwiches didn't exist in the city of Gilm and it became a pretty popular item. However, the cooking method quickly spread as the only difference was that the bread with the fillings inside was toasted before being

cut.

"Normally, people don't think of toasting sandwiches. But, it's delicious when toasted. Especially with cheese or ham.Depending on the ingredients, there are also some things that don't match. Because of that, with that knowledge, I was wondering if I could ask for a dish that could become a specialty of our restaurant."

".....I'm actually an amateur in cooking you know? Toasted sandwiches are just made from toasting bread, anyone could come up with it."

"But that fact that you actually thought of it is really amazing.Could you think of one for me?"

Seeing Hasta's petition, Rei was troubled for several seconds.....but as soon as he thought of something, he gave a small nod.

(There are no noodle dishes in Elgin. No, perhaps there are some in other cities or countries, but there are none in the city of Gilm. Then this might be a good opportunity? If there's wheat flour, salt and water, udon noodles could be made.However, the problem is that I don't know how udon noodles are made myself. If I had made it at home before, I could probably do something about it?No, that's the job of a professional chef. If I provide some hints, I should be able to leave the invention to them.)

After deciding on his thoughts in his mind, he called out to Hasta.

"That's right. I have an idea of a dish I want to try, this would be a good opportunity to realise it. However, I only have the idea, whether or not it can be created will depend on the chef's skill."

"Thank you very much!"

At Rei's words, vigorously bowed his head.

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"Well, regarding the food, is it fine to leave it until after we've taken down that monster you called the Gamelion?"

"Ah, yes. I would appreciate it greatly if you did that. But first of all, the Gamelion's meat is the priority."

"So, I heard that Gamelions can be found about half a day's distance away from here.....but are we heading out now?"

At those words, Hasta turned to look out a window in the bar before shaking his head.

"The place where Gamelions appear is half a day away from here. Even if we left now, it would be into evening by the time we get there. Searching for our target in that situation would be tough. No, even if Rei doesn't have any issues, it's a bit harder for me....."

"That's true. I had hoped that both of us could ride Set, but unfortunately, he can only handle one."

"If I'm not mistaken, Set was the name of your Griffon.Mm, then, we'll leave the city early tomorrow morning and arrive at the Gamelion hunting grounds just after noon. After that, the best would be to smoothly hunt some Gamelions and then return to the city of Gilm."

Speaking up to there, Rei and Hasta both shook their heads.

"That's impossible."

"I agree. I don't think things will happen that conveniently. I don't know if we'll be able to find a Gamelion right away after we get there.Or rather, that would normally be impossible."

"In that case, we might need to prepare to stay for at least one night at worst. As for dismantling them, it won't be a problem if I store the killed Gamelions into my item box and bring it back to the city. The main problem is how quickly we can find a Gamelion."

"That's right. However, I don't want to have to spent a night outside the city if

possible at this time of the year. It's quite cold and stronger monsters also tend to appear around this time compared to spring and summer."

"Heh~, is that so?"

Rei, who hadn't heard about that before, replied in surprise.

As for Rei, a monster he hadn't met yet meant a magic stone that he hadn't tried to absorb before. It was like a dream come true for him for new stronger monsters to appear.

".....Actually, why don't Set and I just fly over to the plains ourselves and hunt some Gamelions? In that case, it shouldn't take too long and wouldn't it be much easier?"

Rei would hunt some Gamelions and a few other unknown monsters while he was at it to get their magic stones. Hasta could just wait in the city of Gilm. Rei brought up the idea that he had thought of but Hasta shook his head.

"I'm sorry. Because of the conditions my father set, I have to do it myself. Because of that, I can't entrust it to you entirely. If, for example, the debt was to a corrupt money lender, I wouldn't care about the conditions at all. But in the end, this just started from me not wanting my father and mother to be in debt.....even if I left everything to Rei-san and received the Gamelion meat, I'm sure that my father wouldn't use it."

".....You must have a hard time dealing with your stubborn father."

"Ahaha. But it's because my father is like that that I want to become stronger."

Seeing Hasta say that with a smile, Rei was momentarily reminded of Bolton and Galahat from Azoth Firm.

Bolton, Postguerra, Minas and Cordo. The four of them had already been escorted to the Imperial Capital. While they were being escorted, there had been a rumor that an unearthly cry would be heard every time the date changed, but even though Rei heard the rumors, he didn't show any particular expressions.

"Well then, in that case, can we meet at the front of the main gate tomorrow morning? After that, we'll move to the location where Gamelions appear and start hunting as soon as possible. Then, we'll hurry back to the city of Gilm. If we don't make it back in time before the city gates close, we'll stay outside the

city for the night."

"That's fine. Then that's that.Although it can't be helped, it's hard when sunrise is so late. When it's still dark outside, monsters are quite active."

"It can't be helped. But it's precisely because Gamelions only come out at this time of the year right?"

"Yes. Probably to save up energy before winter, it's said that Gamelions come out to the plains to prey on other monsters and wild animals.In fact, I had the opportunity to eat the meat of a Gamelion about 2 years ago, it was very delicious. The taste of its meat was comparable to to rank B monsters."

Maybe he was recalling the taste of the meat, Hasta seemed to have a happy smile on his face.

Seeing that, Rei started to feel hungry, even though he had just finished a light meal.

"Anyway. Tomorrow morning. Can we meet at the front of the main gate at just about sunrise?"

".....Ah, y-yes! I'm okay with that. Thank you very much!"

Hasta gave a quick bow and Rei gave a small nod back before they parted ways to prepare for the next day.

However, in Rei's case, since the Misty Ring held a lot of adventuring equipment already, he had nothing to buy in particular and ended up heading back to the inn while buying food to eat with Set.

Dawn the next morning. Rei woke up earlier than usual, had a quick breakfast and paid extra to have plenty more sandwiches for snacks and lunch before walking towards the main gate with Set while it was still dark.

"Hm, it's getting colder afterall."

"Guru~"

Rei muttered to himself as he saw several other adventurers heading for the main gate aside from himself.

Unlike a while before, many people were wearing robes and coats on top of their armour. There was also a mage who seemed to be wearing several layers of robes.

Meanwhile, Rei's Dragon Robe kept the temperature comfortable for whoever was wearing it. Such a small change to the temperature was also inconsequential to Set. The two of them were quite out of place in the surroundings. If it was just about how conspicuous they were, there were hardly any people who didn't know about Set now. Still, since Rei was hardly wearing anything aside from his robe and coat in 10C temperatures, it was no surprise he attracted attention from the surroundings.

It was clear to everyone that he was using some sort of magic item, but Rei had become known as someone that should be avoided as much as possible. As a result, he arrived at the main gate without anyone asking any questions. The main gate hadn't opened yet, but some adventurers were around waiting for it to open.

"Ah, Rei-san. Good morning!"

As soon as he found Rei, Hast gave a quick bow as he greet them.

".....You don't have to put up a brave front."

"Guru~"

"Heh, I've seen it several times from a distance in the city, but this is my first time seeing it so close. Um, nice to meet you Set.....is that right?"

"Gururu~"

Set gave a cry at Hasta's words.

Seeing that, Hasta took something out of the backpack he was carrying and gave it to Set.

"Um, I brought some cooked dishes from our restaurant. Would you like to eat it?"

He held a sandwich in his hand. However, inside the sandwich was a large serving of meat. Rather calling it bread with some meat inside, it was more like meat covered by bread.

"Guru~"

Giving a cheerful cry, Set used his beak to bring the sandwich into his mouth.

"Ah, Rei-san, have some as well. I received a lot of food from my father

instead of having breakfast."

"I see, then I won't be polite."

Despite having a light breakfast before leaving the inn, Rei was still brought some of the meat sandwiches to his mouth.

At first sight, it didn't look like an elegant dish, but the meat inside had been stewed and not roasted. It melted into his mouth without having to chew much.

".....Delicious."

He said that without thinking. Hearing that, Hasta smiled happily.

After all, he was glad that the food made by his father was praised.

"It suits my tastes well.Ah, it seems the gate will open soon. Let's go quickly. We have to be quick in a variety of ways today."

"That's true. Set, let's go."

"Guru~"

Putting the last bit of the sandwich into his mouth, Rei headed for the front gate with Set and Hasta.

Nearby adventurers who noticed their movements also started moving to complete their procedures to exit the city. But seeing Rei and Set, they stopped to talk with their party members to kill some time while they waited.

"Oh, Rei-kun. It's been a while."

It was Ranga, who could be said to handle Rei and Set exclusively. Even though the morning sun hadn't risen yet, his face was full of energy and his stern beard was a glossy black as usual.

"Well, as expected my vacation is over. Today, I'm heading over to the plains with that person over there to hunt a monster called a Gamelion."

As soon as he heard the name Gamelion, his cheeks twitched.

Rei didn't miss that and asked Ranga as he passed his guild card and Set's Necklace of Subservient Monster over.

"Did something happen?"

".....No, that's right. If it's you there's nothing to worry about.....as you know,

Gamelions are a monster that appears at this time of the year, every year." "That seems to be the case."

"As a rank C monster and its meat is very tasty. So because of that, adventurers will take up requests for it every time this time of the year to hunt them so they can eat some....."

"But?"

"This year, it seems that it's different from usual. No, of course several adventurer parties have already hunted Gamelions. But, there has been a strange report from a party."

"....."

Rei silently urged Ranga to continue.

"Ordinary Gamelions are roughly 3m in size. However, some people have said that they've seen a Gamelion over 8m in size."

".....Over 8m? Well, that's pretty big. It's almost 3 times larger than normal."

"Ahh. I think it's probably a rare species.....anyway, if you're going to hunt Gamelions, I think it would be better to be careful around there."

"I see. Thank you for the information. Since it's not just me and Set, I'll be careful to avoid it as much as possible."

"Please do so. It would be best to kill it if possible though.Yes, here you go. Stay safe."

Having his guild card returned, Rei left the main gate with Hasta, who had finished a little earlier. Naturally, Set walked along behind them, matching their pace.

Continuing on from the city of Gilm, they headed in the direction of the Forest of Monsters.

"The story about the rare species, did you hear about it?"

"Yes. Since it's normal to rank rare species one rank higher, if it really is a rare species of Gamelion, it should be around rank B.To be honest, I'm worried about it."

Hasta unintentionally gave a sigh as he spoke.

Hasta was a rank D adventurer. To hunt a Gamelion, a rank C monster, by himself was already risky. Even though he had decided to aim for a Gamelion

this time because of Rei and Set's strength, a rare species around B rank was just too tough. It was no wonder that Hasta thought like that. But.

"Well, if it's a rank B, we'll manage somehow."

".....Eh?"

At the words Rei muttered, Hasta heard it with shocked expression.

A rank B monster.....there weren't many people in the city of Gilm that would take one on solo. Did he mean if it was a rank D monster, he could manage somehow? Although Hasta wondered about that, he immediately understood after glancing back at the Griffon following them.

Surely, if a Griffon was a rank A monster, then they could manage a rank B monster one way or another.

The Orc King Rei had defeated or the Spriggan that Rei had taken down with Elena and the others, Emerald Wolves were regarded as rank C individually but considered to be the equivalent of rank B in groups. It had hardly spread that Rei had defeated such monsters. More people knew about the Orc King but Hasta didn't seem to have heard.

"In the case of emergencies, I'll be relying on you."

Because of that, Hasta stroked Set's head while saying that he would be relying on him if the rare species appeared.

"Gururu~?"

Set didn't know why his head was suddenly patted and just gave a puzzled cry.

Chapter 172

"Tch, so troublesome!"

"Gigigy-i!"

A big and swift swing of the Death Scythe sliced three Goblins at the torso.

Goblin blood and entrails scattered everywhere. Frowning at the uncomfortable sweat coming out around his eyes, Rei looked towards Hasta, who was fighting nearby.

Avoiding a wide swing of a rusty long sword, the next moment, the tip of his estoc quickly pierced into the Goblin's forehead before being swiftly withdrawn. It looked like a practiced series of movements.

"Heh, as expected of a D rank adventurer. His strength is quite good."

Muttering in admiration, Rei decided that Hasta didn't need any help and turned to look at his partner, Set.

"Gururu~!"

".....Thought as much."

What had unfolded was a one sided stomp rather than a fight.

A Goblin desperately wielded a rusted spear, which Set struck and destroyed with a swing of his claws. It wasn't hard for Set to avoid any stones thrown at him as he danced freely in the skies. A single blow from Set easily stole away the Goblin's life.

A group of Goblins that had recklessly attacked Rei's group didn't even need 5 minutes before realising they couldn't win and running away.

"I really didn't think we would get attacked by Goblins."

"Me too. I don't think there were any reports in the guild of Goblins appearing along here."

Both Rei and Hasta gave a sigh as they cut off the right ears, as proof of subjugation, and removing the magic stones from their hearts.

"The meat.....I don't need it. What about you?"

"Me neither. The meat of Goblins tastes bad.If it was delicious, it would probably be more attractive. It is a troublesome monster for adventurers since they reproduce so quickly."

"Their rate of reproduction is so high that if you see 1, there's probably 30 around."

Regarding the corpses, they decided that other monsters would just eat them up if there were only 10. Leaving them as they were, the three of them started walking again towards the area where Gamelions appeared.

"Is this the first time you've tried hunting a Gamelion?"

As they walked along the road, Rei asked Hasta, who was walking next to him. Hasta shook his head.

"I've experienced it several times before. However, back then I was with a party. The amount of meat I received was inevitably small. Because of that, I made a request to Rei-san this time."

"I see. By the way, did Goblins appear that time?"

"Mm.....I don't remember, but in this direction towards the Forest of Monsters, there are many kinds of monsters that appear. I guess it wouldn't be surprising even if there were Goblins."

".....In that case, that's fine."

"Rei?"

Maybe feeling uneasy about Rei's mutters, Hasta asked about it. However, Rei shook his head as if it wasn't much.

(Yes, if there are a wide range of monster from the Forest of Monsters, it should be difficult for monsters like Goblins to survive here.....in this large plain. Luckily, we haven't run into any other monsters.)

Thinking to himself, he brought himself back to reality and continued talking.

"By the way, can I ask what other monsters will come out to the plains aside from Gamelions?"

"That's right, aside from them, Floating Jellyfish also show up around this time of the year."

".....Floating Jellyfish?"

"Oh, right. If you lived in the mountains before you came to the city of Gilm, you probably don't know what I mean by jellyfish."

Although Hasta was about to explain in a hurry, Rei shook his head to stop him.

"No, I've read about them in a book my teacher had. Is it a creature with tentacles growing from a transparent bell shape?"

"That's right. It's said that they were originally jellyfish that became monsters for some reason. Well, as a D rank monster, it's not that strong. However, if the tips of its tentacles touch you, you'll get numbed. Following their name, they fly in the sky.....in your case, there's Set, so I don't think that will be a problem."

"Guru~?"

You called? Set seemed to say as he tilted his head in puzzlement behind Rei.

"It's nothing. We'll just be relying on you."

Rei stroked Set's head, who rubbed his head against Rei.

The three of them continued to chat as they walked while watching the surroundings, killing monsters such as Poison Toads and Fang Boars along the way, harvesting their materials, meat and magic stones. After several hours, they reached a place where the surroundings became dark green with the long grass that grew.

It was a mysterious sight. Although it was already late autumn and close to winter, the grass hadn't withered and instead had grown lushly in all the places they had walked by. It was a scene that you could mistake for summer. But even though the view was like that of a summer field, the surrounding temperature was definitely that of late autumn with the temperature being below 10C.

"This is....."

"It's strange isn't it? Apparently around here seems to have received some sort of magical interference from the Forest of Monsters, so grass grows here all year round."

"The Forest of Monsters is it?"

In a sense, Rei's surprised expression when he heard the name was because

he didn't expect that it had anything to do with the place where he was born.

Any how, the Forest of Monsters was a few hours away from Gilm even by flying on Set. When walking by foot, it would take several days. From this, you could see how big the impact the Forest of Monsters had.

"Yes, that seems to be the case. Well, it's also the reason why Gamelions will come out so far, so it's not a bad thing for the residents of Gilm."

"No, is that fine? To leave a phenomenon like that as it is."

"Well, nothing particularly bad has happened because of it. So I guess it's okay?"

(It seems there are various inconveniences.I might as well investigate it a bit later. No, I can't sense magic power well, so it's impossible for me. In that case.....)

At that moment, Rei recalled an adventurer who could see magic power directly with his magic eyes, Runo.

(Of course, I can provide my own skills as compensation.....now then, what should I do.)

"Ah, it's been a while."

"Hey, if it isn't Hasta. Long time no see. Even you've come here.....ah, I see. Mm, I get it now."

Rei, who had been thinking to himself, brought himself back to reality at Hasta's voice.

Looking ahead, there were about 5 adventurers who had stopped when they saw Rei.....no, to be exact they stopped when they saw Set.

Some of the adventurers were pulling a cart that held the corpses of a few dead monsters.

A long supple tail, pure white fur, sharp ears and blade like fangs. They all matched the characteristics of the Gamelion he had heard from Hasta.

(I see. So they are also an adventurer party hunting for Gamelions.)

".....I thought that it would be reckless to challenge a Gamelion with only two people. But if the rumors about Rei are true, it will be okay for the two of you.

Or rather, with a Griffon, a Gamelion will be hard pressed."

After the first person said that, the rest of them nodded in agreement.

"Ahahaha. I was able to negotiate well, so I managed to borrow Rei-san's strength."

"I see.I don't think I need to worry too much if there's a skilled adventurer like Rei, but stay safe. Be careful. We hunted a Gamelion, but it was strangely belligerent. It's somewhat different from last year."

"Ahh. It's as I was thinking. I heard a story about a rare species as we were leaving the main gate.....is it that? On a side note, since you're coming back now, did you stay overnight?"

"Ah. It's hard to find. It can't be helped. Fortunately, we weren't attacked overnight."

Ahahahaha, the adventurers laughter echoed into the surroundings.

Nevertheless, the fact that they stayed overnight in the plains near the Forest of Monsters indicated that they were quite skilled.

"Aside from us, there are still some other Gamelion hunting parties scattered over the plains, so I don't think there's anything too dangerous....."

"Well, I guess you did mention that earlier."

When Hasta spoke to the leader of the party, he replied with a wry smile.

"Well then, we'll be heading back to the city of Gilm soon. It will be troublesome if another monster come because of the smell of blood."

"I understand. Stay safe on the road."

"Ah.Well, do you have a moment?"

With a glance towards Rei, a man called out.

"I don't mind.What is it?"

"That, that is. Although it may be unreasonable to ask this of you, please look after Hasta."

Probably so that it wouldn't be heard by Hasta, the man whispered into Rei's ear.

"That fellow, he's an energetic and polite adventurer. However, his feelings

for his family are too strong. Sometimes he will charge ahead recklessly.

Because of that, I will be grateful if you can look out for him."

"I'm also a rank D like him. Isn't he a more veteran adventurer than I am?"

"Hey, don't say something that stupid. There's no adventurer in the city of Gilm that doesn't know of your skill. Most people who've just come to the city or just became an adventurer don't know left from right. You've piled up a lot of achievements. It's strange that you're still in rank D. In addition, you've also got a Griffon."

There was no sense of lying in the man's words. He genuinely admired Rei's ability. Rei could tell that by the eyes that looked straight at him.

(Hasta is loved by the veteran adventurers quite a lot.)

Giving a small sigh, Rei nodded.

"I see. If you trust in my skill that much, it would be sad to disappoint you."

"I understand, I'm very grateful. Well then, I'll leave it to you."

With a manly smile, he struck Rei's shoulder lightly, who was a whole head shorter than him.

"Um? What's going on?"

Seeing Rei and the other man, Hasta asked. But the man shook his head to say it wasn't much.

"It's a long story.Well then, we should get going soon, hunt carefully!"

Finally, the men continued pulling their cart as they left of the city of Gilm.

".....Well then, let's get going."

Hasta said that as he watched the other party of 5 leave. Beyond his gaze lay a lush, dark green plain.

Perhaps he was focusing his mind only on the Gamelions, the monsters he had come to hunt.

"That's right. We should get going."

Rei nodded at Hasta's words and stepped onto the plains with Set.

"Rei-san, can you find where the Gamelions are if Set flies above? Even if we

can kill it, we can't do that without finding one first."

"Hmm, I see. Set, can you do it?"

"Guru~!"

With a cry saying leave it to me, after taking a few steps, Set stretched his wings and rushed up into the sky.

"Wow.....it's really amazing isn't it."

Hasta raised a voice of admiration while watching Set rise from the ground.

To Hasta, who was a mere rank D adventurer, it was impossible for him to fly through the sky.

After about 5 minutes, Set flew back down.

"Gurururu~"

As soon as he landed on the plain, he turned to his left and gave a cry to indicate the direction as he walked forward.

"Apparently he seems to have found one."

"To find one in such a short time....."

With a surprised expression, Hasta spoke in admiration.

Set walked straight across the grassy plain for about 20 minutes before eventually stopping and looking towards a small forest in the plains.

"You're sure it's over there?"

"Guru~"

Set gave a quite cry at Rei's question.

[.....]<http://moonbunnycafe.com/legend/171>

Hearing his cry, Rei and Hasta decided there was no mistake and nodded at each other before moving closer towards the forest while keeping their footsteps unheard. Hasta had already taken out his estoc to use at any time. Rei also had his Death Scythe in hand.

And what they saw when they entered the forest was.....

"Ga, gaa....."

A 3m white monster was eating the entrails of a Goblin that was in a half dead state.....no, in critical condition.

Rei was familiar with that monster. Because he had seen a dead body of it being carted before they entered the plains.

Sharp, blade like ears and a tail 1m long. From behind, it was impossible to check it's fangs, but there was no mistake. As Rei was about to name the 3m long monster, Hasta spoke it first.

"A Gamelion."

Chapter 173

"A Gamelion."

Hasta muttered the name of the monster in expectation. The white monster that had been greedily devouring the internal organs of the Goblin stopped and looked behind with a sharp gaze when he heard that sound.

After noticing that there were two adventurers there, it buried its fangs back into the Goblin without caring at all.

However, its 1m tail swayed from side to side, as if watching what was happening behind it.

".....Hasta, fortunately it hasn't noticed Set. Once we move from here, Set will attack from the sky."

Although Rei quietly called out from behind the nervous looking Hasta, Hasta shook his head to reject that suggestion while firmly grasping the estoc in his hand.

"Even though I asked Rei-san to help with hunting a Gamelion, I can't just leave everything to you. Besides, there's also the conditions my father set."

At his words, Rei remembered that Hasta wanted to fight it himself and not just have someone do it for him.

"If I left everything to Rei-san and Set, I would be betraying my father and mother.I'm sorry, Rei-san. Please let me try first. If I get into a hopeless situation, please help me then."

".....Is that fine?"

"Yes."

As Hasta nodded without any hesitation, Rei remembered the words of the adventurer they had met upon entering the plains.

(It's true that he does have reckless tendencies. However, there's no helping it since conditions are conditions. I'll just step in once things get dangerous.)

Thinking to himself, Rei gave a small nod.

"I understand. However, since I'm working together with you, it would be troublesome for me if you died. If it gets dangerous, I'll step in right away."
"I'll be relying on you."

While watching Hasta ready his estoc, Rei moved a short distance away to see what he could do.

Of course, in case anything dangerous happened, he held the Death Scythe in his hands.

In addition, Set had hid himself on the ground to make himself as unnoticeable as possible so that the Gamelion wouldn't detect him and run away.

".....I'm going-!"

Giving a sharp and tense cry, Hasta dashed forward with his estoc, narrowing the distance to the Gamelion.

Zing~!

Noticing a presence approaching it, the Gamelion swung its tail sharply.....

"-!?"

Hasta slid forward to avoid the tail that was swung like a whip, closing the distance further.

This situation reminded Rei of some of the sliding tackles he had seen in football on TV when he was in Japan.

"Haah!"

Of course, with Rei's physical abilities, the swing of the tail wasn't too fast to him. He could slash it off with the Death Scythe's blade or block it with its handle. And that would only happen if it came to a point where avoiding it by even a hairs breadth was impossible. However, Hasta couldn't do that with his physical skills, as a result, he just slid under it.

"Ga-!"

But as a Gamelion, having its attacks avoided wasn't something unexpected.

Holding the corpse of the dead Goblin it had eating from in its mouth, it gave a displeased cry as it threw the corpse towards Hasta.

Although it was only the size of a human child and its insides had been eaten up, it still weighed over 20kg. If he had been using a common weapon that a lot of other adventurers used, like a long sword, spear or axe, he might have been able to cut through the corpse with force. However, Hasta used a estoc, that specialised in thrusts. Naturally, he couldn't cut down the corpse of the Goblin. If he was prepared for his weapon to break, he might be able to do so, but that would cause him to lose his means of attack against the Gamelion.

In other words, Hasta had no way to deal with it.

"I must gather my strength to do this!"

Shouting as if to inspire himself, he pulled out a knife with his left hand, that wasn't holding the estoc and stabbed it into the ground to forcibly stop himself. At the same time, the corpse of the Goblin flew past Hasta and struck a tree a short distance from Rei, scattering blood into the surroundings.

"Haa-!"

Although being touched by its prey only caused it to pause momentarily, it was enough for Hasta, who only needed a moment to do a quick stab.

With a cry, he thrust forward with the tip of his estoc, striking the base of the Gamelion's tail without missing. Though the body of a Gamelion was covered in fur that boasted a strong defense against slashing and stabbing attacks, its tail wasn't covered in fur.....

"Gyan~!"

Having its tail cut near the base, the Gamelion let out a scream that echoed into the surroundings.

(Heh, he can do it.)

Although he kept the Death Scythe ready to go in at any time, Rei gave a sigh of admiration in his mind.

"Not yet!"

Without needing to see the 1m meter tail fall off, Hasta instinctively

understood from his experience as an adventurer that this was his biggest opportunity and stabbed forward sharply a second time.

Since the fur of a Gamelion was resistant against cutting and piercing, he aimed for a place that wasn't covered with fur. It also had to be a place where the attack would be lethal. In other words, its eyes, which were close to its brain. If he could pierce his estoc into its eyes, he would destroy its brain. This was the only opportunity Hasta had to defeat the Gamelion with a single blow.

However, of course a Gamelion would know its own weak point. And of course, it knew how to react when its eyes were targeted.

Kin~!

A sound of metal hitting metal echoed into the surroundings. The source of the sound was Hasta's estoc. And.....the tip of the Gamelion's sharp, blade like ears.

"What!?"

"GAAAAA-!"

For Hasta, that thrust was one of the fastest and sharpest strikes he had ever made in all the battles he had fought so far. However, the huge rabbit before him had stopped it with its blade ears. Even though he knew its ears were like a knife, he had never had the opportunity to spar with an opponent like a monster of a higher rank.

And as the Gamelion blocked Hasta's estoc with its blade ears, it opened its mouth showed its sharp fangs as it tried to bite into Hasta.....

"-!?"

Hasta pulled back his estoc and tried to use it as a shield but it was already too late. The Gamelion's fangs would take his life faster than he would withdraw his estoc. The next moment after he thought that.

Slash-!

"Ga.....a?"

Activating Shoes of Sleipnir and dashing into the air, Rei dropped from a height of about 6m and poured magic power into the Death Scythe before

cutting straight through the neck of the Gamelion.

".....Eh?"

The head and fangs that were originally supposed to cut into his body passed by his side. Hasta leaked a voice as he saw that surreal scene.

"Are you okay?"

Rei asked after shouldering the Death Scythe that had cut through the Gamelion's neck like a guillotine.

"Ah, yes. Yes. Of course I'm okay.....eh? That's?"

Hasta turned to look at the Gamelion, which had blood gushing from its neck as it rolled a short distance away from him.

However, Rei didn't pay that much attention to Hasta and just frowned slightly as watched the blood gush out.

"Should I wait until most of the blood drains out?"

Rei muttered to himself.

"....."

Hasta just looked at Rei silently.

He had heard the rumors. But still, since Rei was the same rank as himself, D rank, even if Rei was stronger than him, Hasta didn't think he would be that much stronger. Somewhere in his mind, he had thought Rei's evaluation was mainly due to his Griffon, an A rank monster.

However, with Rei's strength had easily killed a Gamelion that he was struggling with. Even though the Gamelion had been focusing its attention on him, Hasta being something like a decoy, Rei had still managed to slice through its neck with a single attack. Its fur coat was originally a strong defense against slashing attacks.

At this time, it could be said that Hasta experienced the immeasurable abilities of the adventurer called Rei in person.

"So, right after coming to the plains, we've hunted the monster we came for.....what do you want to do now? Do you want to head back now? Or do you

want to look for a few more?"

Rei asked, not knowing Hasta's thoughts.

Hearing that question, Hasta brought himself back to reality.

"Ah, that. Since it's a monster that appears for a limited time during this period, I heard from the guild that less than 1 in 5 parties actually manage to hunt one. Because of that, let's head back if we hunt another one or two. Actually, I feel we're quite lucky to actually hunt one, I never imagined we could find a Gamelion so soon after arriving."

"I see.By the way, since you said that they live in the Forest of Monsters, aren't there any risk taking adventurers that go into the Forest of Monsters?"

"Ahahaha. That's a good joke Rei-san. There no adventurers crazy enough to enter the Forest of Monsters. There are a few monsters that I could deal with in there, but I've also heard that there are B and A rank monsters in there. There are even S rank monsters."

".....I see."

While nodding at Hasta's words, Rei remembered the Dragon he had seen as he left the Forest of Monsters. He wondered if that was an S rank monster. At the very least, it was a monster that would be really difficult for him or Set to deal with at the moment.

At the same time, he thought of the Jalms, giant flying squirrel monsters, that he had encountered leaving the Forest of Monsters.

(That said, I heard that the Gamelions came out from the Forest of Monsters, but what about those Jalms?)

When Rei and Set had left the Forest of Monsters, they had been attacked by over 100 of them.....while thinking about that, he recalled the Jalm's habits.

(I see, so we'll have no problems if we come out during the day because they're nocturnal.)

While Rei thought about that, Hasta broke away from the surprise he had off Rei, gulped and digested what had happened.

He spoke while changing his impression of Rei he had in his mind.

"Still, Rei-san is amazing. To kill a Gamelion in a single blow.To be honest, although I was told you were strong, I actually thought it was mostly because of Set.....but now I have a much clearer impression."

"Well, I understand that my build doesn't look like one of an adventurer. Thanks to that, I've had the experience of other adventurers picking fights with me."

"Ahahaha. At first glance, Rei-san certainly has a delicate build. When you wear that robe, you could only be seen as a small mage."

Rei didn't want to boast about himself and gave an unintentional smile at Hasta's words.

"Of course they gave me a reasonable reward.So, should we hunt two more Gamelions before leaving it at that and going home?"

"Ah, yes. Let's do that."

"I see. Well in that case, it will be quicker for Set to find them from the sky. Oh, looks like the blood has almost finished draining."

It seemed that most of the blood had already flowed out from its body. The bleeding from its neck had ceased and a rusty smell had spread around to the surroundings.

Fortunately for them, maybe because it was a forest, the smell was soon scattered by the wind.

Touching the corpse of the Gamelion, Rei stored it into the Misty Ring. Of course, Rei didn't forget about the head, which he had cut off himself, and the tail, which was proof of subjugation that Hasta had removed.

"Then, Set. Into the sky again.....Set?"

"Gururururu~"

Rei was about to ask Set to fly up into the sky to look for another Gamelion, but Set looked back towards the plains from the forest they were in and gave a cry as if wary of something.

And the next moment, Rei's own sharp hearing picked up what Set had been alerted to. He heard something like a scream. A voice that was shouting like they were trying to escape from something was coming closer.

".....Rei-san?"

However, only Rei and Set heard it at the same time. Hasta, who was an ordinary human, had no idea what Rei and Set had noticed.

"Get ready. Apparently there are some adventurers being chased here. What do you want to do? Do you want to help them? Or do we keep looking for Gamelions, which is what we came here for?"

Since they had come to this plain, which was under the effect of the Forest of Monsters, anything that happened to anyone was their own responsibility. That was why Rei had asked like that. However, Rei had already half expected how Hasta would reply.

"Although that's true, I can't abandon adventurers who live in the same city. Besides, Rei and Set are also here.That is, I'll have to rely on you."

"I thought you would say that. I don't know what kind of monster attacked them, but for me, it's a great opportunity to collect magic stones. Any problems Set?"

"Guru~!"

Set nodded, saying leave it to me.

Hasta, who was watching them, bowed his head and thanked Rei.

"Thank you very much!"

"Don't worry about it. We'll head for the adventurers being chased before they get done in."

"Yes!"

"Gururururu~!"

The three of them left the forest and returned to the plains.

And the moment they returned to the plains, they could see some adventurers running towards them.

They could be easily identified because there were few obstacles on the plain. Four adventurers were running towards the forest in Rei's direction. A Gamelion chased behind them.

Everything up to this point was expected by Rei. There was just a slight difference.....

"A rare species."

Hasta murmured to himself.

Yes. The Gamelion that was pursuing the adventurers was nearly three times the size of the one which Rei had taken down

Chapter 174

Noticing the adventurers fleeing to the forest, Rei went out to the plains because Hasta didn't want to see adventurers from the same city be killed.

But what he saw was expected in one sense and unexpected in another.

As expected, the four adventurers were being chased by a Gamelion. Adventurers mainly came here for the purpose of hunting Gamelions, which only appeared around this time. It was a situation where they were running away after being overwhelmed by a Gamelion.

But what was unexpected was the Gamelion chasing the adventurers. Even though they were normally 3m in size, those were like a joke compared to this one. The size of this one was nearly 3 times larger than the one Rei had killed.

Rei and Hasta recalled a Gamelion of such size. It was because Rei had heard Ranga talking about the Gamelion rare species as he was leaving the city.

"....."

Rei turned to look at Hasta, who was stunned.

Even an ordinary Gamelion was a rank C monster, a monster that was clearly a higher rank than Hasta, who was a D rank adventurer.

Actually, with regards to the Gamelion Rei had killed earlier, Hasta had only been able to cut off its tail. If Rei hadn't killed it, Hasta probably would have died.

That said, the rare species that was heading towards the forest where Rei was had to be treated as being one rank higher than normal. That is to say, it was a B rank monster. It was a monster on the same level of strength as the Orc King or Spriggan that Rei had fought himself. It was clearly a massive opponent to Hasta.

"Hasta."

".....Yes. I know. This is an opponent I can't fight with my strength at the

moment. Should I retreat back into the forest?"

"I would be grateful if you could do that. Calm the four adventurers who are being chased, I will appreciate it if you could explain the situation to them as well."

"Please leave it to me. I can't help you in battle, but I'll do something about that area."

I will help you! Rei, who had thought that Hasta would say that, was surprised as he gave him some instructions.

Of course, if Rei and Set weren't here, Hasta would still try to do something himself. Fortunately, extraordinary people like Rei and Set were present. Rei had made an attack that had cleanly killed a Gamelion. Because of that, Hasta knew that even if he tried to help Rei fight a B rank Gamelion, he would only get in the way. Knowing his own strength was one of Hasta's merits.

As they made some simple arrangements, the distance between the four adventurers to the forest where Rei was gradually shrunk.

But as expected, they were at a disadvantage, running away from a rare species Gamelion, a monster that appeared similar to a rabbit and was 8m in size. As the distance from the adventurers to the forest shrunk, so did the distance from the rare species Gamelion to the adventurers.

The despair of approaching death could be seen on the faces of the adventurers, but they still ran towards the forest Rei was in, which was their only hope.

Given the size of the rare species, it was a wise choice to escape into the forest. That was because it would be impossible for it to slip between the trees with such a huge body. It could chase them after destroying the trees, but if it did that, the rare species' speed would naturally slow down.

(It seems that this Gamelion is surprisingly fast. It's too close to those guys for me to use magic without rolling them up in it. In that case, it's better to get between them to make some room.)

Rei thought to himself as he dashed forward silently. Seeing him off, Set flapped his wings and soared into the sky, ready to launch a surprise attack on the rare species to assist Rei.

"Don't come—! Run away, run away-!"

Among the adventurers being chased by the Gamelion, a warrior like man running at the front shouted towards Rei.

However, Rei didn't listen to him.....no, rather, he shouted back to the adventurers approaching in a loud voice.

"I'll take over from here. Go to the forest! My friend is waiting there!"
"But!"

Maybe guessing that Rei was a mage from his physique, the man in the lead tried to argue back. But by that time, Rei and the other adventurers were already passing each other by and the rare species was firmly in his gaze.

"-Don't die!"

In the end, the adventurers ran straight for the forest.

Rei didn't watch them go. Instead, he was already swinging his Death Scythe at the rare species, which was about 5m away.

"Flying Slash!"

Saying the Death Scythe's skill, Rei let loose a flying slash. As its name, a slash flew out.....

"Gaaa~!"

Maybe it felt the power of the slash. The rare species leapt high into the air with cry.

As expected of a monster similar to a rabbit, its jumping power allowed it to easily jump over the flying slash. It was also a jump on the spot. From this, Rei could see the intelligence of the rare species, who didn't jump forward to close the distance to Rei and his magic item.

Zing~!

The moment Rei thought that, he heard a sound of whistling air and he swung the Death Scythe almost on reflex.

Kin~!

At the same time, a metallic sound echoed out.

"Gya-!"

Right after, he heard the rare species scream.

He glanced at a 3m rope like object fall to the ground for a moment before raising his eyebrows.

(That's right. Because it's three times larger, its tail is also much longer than other Gamelions. I won't need to worry about its whip like tail after that first blow.)

"Ga.....gaaaaaa-!"

It seems that it was angry that its tail had been cut off so easily. The rare species gave a large cry and showed its powerful fangs, which were overwhelmingly larger than the Gamelion Rei had killed earlier.

Nevertheless, Rei didn't lose his nerve when confronted by its rage and anger. Instead, he started speaking an incantation while pouring magic power into the Death Scythe.

[Flame, burn the enemy according to my thoughts.]

And with that spell, a 30cm diameter ball of fire gathered at the tip of the Death Scythe.....

[Fireball!]

At the same time the magic was completed, Rei swung the Death Scythe and released the fireball.

It was fast enough that it would have been unavoidable for low rank monsters. However, Rei was fighting a rare species of Gamelion, which was usually a rank C monster but was now equivalent to a rank B monster. In addition, because it was a rabbit-based monster, its instantaneous power and speed were quite high.

"Gaaa~!"

With a short cry, the rare species avoided the fireball by jumping sideways. Without pause, it pushed all its strength into its hind legs to jump towards Rei and make him pay for cutting off its tail.....

Roar-!

"!?"

The rare species looked around on reflex to find the source of the sound and saw that the fireball had burnt a 2m diameter area to nothing with its overwhelming power.

Even the grass that was affected by the magic power of the Forest of Monsters and never withered all year round had been turned to ash before Rei's flames.

(.....Okay. Since the rare species has to worry about me shooting magic at it from behind, it can't ignore me. The forest should be safe for now.)

Hearing footsteps coming from behind and feeling that the adventurers from before had entered the forest, he poured more magic power into the Death Scythe.

"Ga.....ga, gaaaaaaa-!"

Realising that it was being overwhelmed by Rei, unlike its earlier angry voice, the rare species gave a cry as if to inspire itself.

"Magic Shield!"

As if to respond to that cry, Rei readied the Death Scythe. However, he also used the skill Magic Shield to deploy a barrier of light.

"GAAAA-!"

It seemed to feel a sense of crisis as Rei approached it. It would suffer a loss if it didn't do anything. Seeing that, the rare species threatened Rei by revealing its large fangs as he came closer.

The Gamelion was over 8m in size. Its mouth and fangs were huge and for someone of Rei's size, it could swallow him in a single gulp. Even if that was impossible, if it pierced him with its fangs, it could inject poison. And if that happened, Rei would die.

"You're too naive.....-!"

Using abilities unique to Gamelions, it jumped forward to strike with its fangs

before entering the Death Scythe's range.

Gakin~!

However, the fangs that should have struck Rei were blocked by the shield of light.

Almost at the same time, the magic power loaded Death Scythe was swung.

"-!?Gya-!"

The rare species recognised the blade of the Death Scythe approaching it and tried to catch the attack with its right blade ear almost on reflex.

The sharp blade ear would have been able to block it if it had been an ordinary long sword or spear that had been swung. Alternatively, it might even have been able to cut through the weapon. However, the weapon this time was a magic item. It was also created through the Magic Beast Art that was performed with Rei's massive magic power. As a result, the rare species' right blade ear could hardly resist it and it was neatly sliced off. Rei flicked his wrist and swept the Death Scythe around, turning the blade towards the rare species again.

"Power Slash!"

Rei used a second skill.

"Gagyaaaaa-!"

As the cutting edge of the blade fell, the power of the attack was increased by the Power Slash skill. The rare species was hit by it, dyeing its usually blade proof fur with blood. It was blown away nearly 5m while raising a shriek. After rolling along the ground for several meters, it finally stopped moving.

".....You're joking?"

Among the adventurers who were watching from the forest, the man who seemed to be the leader murmured.

The man was the warrior who had briefly conversed with Rei earlier.

However, it was already amazing that he had been able to speak. All his other friends had yet to fix their breathing and couldn't say anything at all.

Rei had blown away the 8m large rare species. He was only around 160cm and looked to be a delicate child.

Even for Hasta, the scene was unexpected. No voice came out as he looked towards Rei.

At the end of his line of sight, he saw the rare species that had fallen to the ground get up unsteadily. The despair that it had brought the adventurers a short while ago was nowhere to be found. It would be right to call it half dead right now.

While feeling the gazes of those 5 people, Rei focused on the rare species without worrying about them.

The one sided situation that had unfolded so far was because Rei had cut off its tail, its only means of long range attack, at the first blow. Without that, it was clear that Rei would have struggled a little more.

"....."

While watching the rare species get up without concern, Rei looked at the sky for a moment.

There, Set flew around, ready to attack at any time.

(Okay, if I don't use my time well and it runs away, I'll end up getting nothing out of it. I'll decide it here.)

As if to redirect the rare species' attention to himself, Rei deliberately swung the Death Scythe.

Originally, he would have used this chance to use Flying Slash to strike. But because the rare species had already seen him use it, he couldn't ignore the possibility that it would use the remaining power in its body to jump past it again.

"Gurururururu~!"

But Rei's aim was to make it jump.

The rare species didn't have a way to move in the air as it saw Set rapidly approach with a courageous cry..... The next moment, Set struck its head with his claws, using the momentum from dropping from a high altitude.

If only their physical sizes were considered, the Gamelion was more than 4 times larger than Set. However, Set had the power of a Griffon, an A rank monster, as well as the Bracelet of Herculean Strength that he had equipped. A dive attack from the sky from a place the rare species didn't expect. As a result, the combination of all these factors demonstrated a tremendous power.....

Gokyaa~!

Disregarding the difference in size, the single strike crushed the bones in the head of the rare species.

"Haah!"

And just for the sake of precaution, with a loud cry he closed the distance to the rare species, that had fallen to the ground, and swung his magic empowered Death Scythe.....

Slash-!

From the top of its neck to the bottom, its head was cleanly cut off.

Chapter 175

".....Phew."

As a result of having its head cut off from the neck, blood began to spurt copiously from the cut, just like the first Gamelion that was killed in the forest.

As he didn't like the blood spraying around, Rei took some distance from the dead body of the rare species Gamelion.

"Gururu~"

Beside him, Set, who had landed the fatal blow on the head of the rare species earlier, gracefully descended to the ground.

"You did a good job. The timing couldn't have been better."

Rei stroked Set's throat while thanking him.

"Guru~"

Although as a Griffon he had the upper body of an eagle, Set purred happily like a cat as his throat was stroked.

Disregarding his size, he looked like a spoiled kitten fawning over his master.

"Heeeey-!"

While stroking Set in thanks, a voice called out from the distance.

Turning towards the direction of the voice, Hasta and the four adventurers who had retreated to the forest were running excitedly towards Rei.

"Hey, hey, hey, hey, that was amazing. No. I heard from Hasta that you were the Rei from the rumors in the city, but you're a lot stronger than in the rumors."

"Yes, yes. I didn't expect a rare species could be taken down by a single person. No, I didn't think a single person could defeat it, even with a Griffon."

Following the male warrior that had called out to Rei when they passed by each other, a male archer wearing thick cloth armour called out.

"Truly. I never thought that I would encounter the rare species that had been talked about."

Next, a mobile female warrior equipped with a spear and leather armour chimed in..

"No, seriously. I thought my life would end here."

Last to speak was a man about the same age as Hasta, wearing a robe and holding a cane.

Throwing a few words of thanks to Rei and Set.

Meanwhile, Rei turned towards the man with with the cane, who should be a mage.

(Most mages are shocked when they first see me.....this is different. In that case, is his ability to sense magic power as low as me?)

While thinking to himself, he shook his head as if it was nothing.

"If you want to say thanks, thank Hasta. He was the one who decided to help you."

"That-! I did ask you to help, but it was actually Rei who killed the rare species! I was only able to fight an ordinary Gamelion....."

At Hasta's hurried words, the leader of the adventurers raised a laugh and slapped him on the shoulder.

"Ahahaha. There are few people who can do anything about a Gamelion by themselves. One of the few exceptions is Rei over there."

While cheerfully laughing, he put on a serious expression as he turned back to Rei.

Seeing the situation, his other three party members gathered near him.

"Thank you for your help this time. I'm Socrus, leader of the C rank party Wind's Blades. The archer over there is Uruipuka, the one with the spear is Jure and the mage is Koteshi."

At Socrus' words, each party member bowed their head as they were introduced.

Looking at Wind's Blades, it was not an exaggeration to say that they had had a narrow escape from death. If Rei hadn't been there, they understood that there was no doubt they would have ended up in the stomach of the rare species. Even if Hasta tried to help, he would only serve to increase the rare species' lunch by a small amount.

"As I said earlier, don't mind it.However, this rare species since I killed it right?"

"Eh? Ah, of course it is. Do you need money or something?"

Socrus unintentionally asked in surprise.

At that question, Rei shook his head with a wry smile as he replied.

"No, I don't have any problems with money."

At Rei's words, Hasta, who was currently troubled by money issues, gave an envious look. However, realising his expression, he turned and looked away.

"But still, you saved our lives, we can't just not give anything back.If it were possible, I would have liked to hand over the Gamelion we took down....."

Socrus shrugged his shoulders with a bitter smile.

Anyhow, they had been chased by the rare species. They had no luxury to pull the cart that had been carrying the Gamelion they had killed earlier. He gave a sigh in complaint as it would probably have ended up as another monster's lunch by now.

"Hey, Socrus. Just consider that we are alive. Regardless of the Gamelion we killed, the cart should still be safe.....I hope. In the end, isn't the cart just something borrowed? If it's broken, we'll just have to pay for it....."

It was the Jure, the one with the spear, that tried to comfort Socrus. However, her tone sank back down when she thought about after they returned to the city of Gilm.

As the atmosphere darkened as Uruipuka and Koteshi thought about the same thing, Rei spoke up again.

"Ahh, I see. If you really want to thank me, it would be nice if you could treat me to some food back in Gilm."

".....Is that okay?"

"Ah. Or rather, given the possibility of your cart's reimbursement, you should refrain from extra expenses."

"Well, that's true."

With that said, Wind's Blades didn't know how much Rei and Set could eat, so they accepted the proposal easily.

"Even so, I had heard rumors about you in the guild.....but it's still amazing. I really can't believe that you're rank D."

"No, I thought that your magic was much more amazing. It's impossible for me to use a fire magic that has that much power."

Hearing Socrus' words, Koteshi followed with praises about the magic used by Rei, who was younger than him.

"Hey, now's not the time to relax! One way or another, we have to get the cart! I hope it's safe.Anyhow, we'll have to get going!"

While shouting, Jure held her spear in her left hand while pulling Socrus' ear with her right hand as she quickly moved.

Of course, Socrus didn't want his ear torn off and quickly followed after Jure.

"That hurts, hey Jure! It hurts. My ear, my ear! You'll tear it off!"

"Shut up! Now that the dead Gamelion is eaten by other monsters, if even the cart is destroyed, our work this time will be in the red, a deficit! Moreover, completing requests will be much harder into winter, we won't survive the winter if we have a deficit here! I refuse to take on subjugation requests in the snow like last year. One way or another, we will save up enough to spend winter warmly!"

"I understand. I understand! Please don't disgrace us in front of people we have met for the first time!"

"Wait, wait. Don't act rashly on the plains here without my magic!"

Koteshi chased after the two of them, leaving behind Uruipuka, who gave a small bow.

"Pardon me, I'll have to excuse myself as I can't leave those two as they are.Truly thank you for helping us out this time.When Socrus treats you two,

eat as much as you like."

Saying that with a smile, he chased after the other three people.

(.....Socrus aside, it seems that Uruipuka know about how much Set and I eat for a meal. He doesn't seem to want to tell his leader though, quite strangely malicious.)

With a wry smile, he spoke to Hasta, who was watching Wind's Blades as they left.

"Now then. It was quite unexpected that I managed to take down a big game like a rare species. Should we head back to the city of Gilm?"

"Ah, yes. I agree. Given the size of the rare species, it should have much more meat than an ordinary Gamelion."

For Hasta, running into a rare species was honestly the worst thing that could happen. Nevertheless, with Rei's help, the massive rare species was taken down. Just looking at the results, you could say he was quite fortunate.

(Calling out to Rei at the guild was a really good idea.....)

While Hasta praised his past self, Rei stored the tail and head that he had cut off into the Misty Ring.

The only thing that remained was the body that was still bleeding from the neck due to its large size.

"Ah.....what do you want to do? Do you want to drain the blood here? Or do you want to drain it after returning to Gilm?"

At that question, Hasta seemed to be a bit guilty as he replied.

"From a safety perspective, it would be better to quickly collect it into Rei's item box and drain it in the city.....however, since it's so big, it will be hard to put it where monsters are usually dismantled near the dining area and it will take a long time to drain the blood. Because of that, I'm sorry, but could I ask you to drain the blood here?"

(Well, that's fine with me since there's a possibility of getting a magic stone that Set or the Death Scythe haven't absorbed yet.)

While thinking to himself, he asked Hasta with a serious expression.

"If you want to, I don't mind.....but, there is also the possibility that other monsters will come, attracted by the smell of blood. Of course, you are ready for that right?"

"Yes. I won't be able to do anything by myself if a rank C monster like a Gamelion comes out, but if it's something like a Goblin, there are absolutely no problems."

With Hasta's words, they waited for the blood to all drain out after Set forcibly turned it upside down.

"Even so.....I never thought that we would run into the rare species we had heard about as we were leaving the city."

Was that a flag by any chance? Rei muttered to himself.

"I agree. My father might not be able to stand up due to surprise if I showed this to him."

"Hey, hey, your goal is to provide cheap meat to your parents' restaurant. So if it had to be closed due to your head chef, you will be slow to return the debt, which is the whole reason you're doing this."

"Ah, that's true. But even if my father had to take a day or two off, I feel like I want to do it....."

While exchanging jokes with each other and continuing to talk as if they didn't care, they kept a watch of the surroundings since this was an area filled with monsters.

Of course, they could only do this because they trusted each other to some extent. Otherwise, either one of them would have told the other to watch the surroundings carefully.

Hasta looked at the place where Rei had killed the rare species. Hasta had reached rank D a year before Rei, so Rei knew that he was a veteran. And above all, the two of them still had the most reliable Griffon, Set, who was monitoring the surroundings as he lay on the ground near Rei.

"By the way, you said the meat of a Gamelion is delicious, but what kind of dish would suit it specifically?"

"Well. There are a variety of recipes, but the one I like best is a simple bake with salt. The skin is baked crisply and the meat is a little tougher but its quite

chewy. A lot of meat juices spread in your mouth....."

As Hasta described the taste of Gamelion meat with an expression of bliss, Rei unexpectedly swallowed his saliva.

"However, the most popular dish in the restaurant is the Gamelion stew. Probably because it had plenty of nutrition when the fat from the meat melts into the soup and is eaten with vegetables.....there are people who will have several servings of the soup."

"Both of them sound delicious."

"Ahahaha. In any case, the meat itself is from a C rank monster, which is more delicious than your average meat. I guess it's because it's also limited to this time period. Ah, that's right. When I get back to Gilm, I'll ask my father to give me some of the food cooked from the Gamelions we killed. Thinking about the amount that Rei eats.....I probably can't give you that much, but I should be able to pass you some of the stew I mentioned earlier."

".....Is that okay? Our purpose coming out to hunt Gamelions this time was to return your restaurant's debts."

At the unusually words of worry that Rei asked, Hasta nodded with a big smile on his face.

"Yes. After all, because Rei killed a rare species, even if my father cooked up the Gamelion dishes, the might still be meat left over. That was because I had originally planned to only hunt one Gamelion."

"I see. If you say so, I will kindly accept your offer.Ahh, that's right. Then you might be able to use the Gamelion meat for the dish I had talked about."

"That is.....please do that!"

Hearing about other potential dishes, Hasta gave a deep bow.

In the end, attracted by the smell of the Gamelion's blood, they were attacked by several Goblins and Poison Toads. Nevertheless, Hasta finished them off quickly.

Chapter 176

"Rei-kun, it's great that you're safe."

Half running and half walking, Rei, Hasta and Set set a forced march pace to arrive back to Gilm before sunset, where Ranga greeted them with a big smile on his bearded face.

Ranga, the captain of the guards, unexpectedly gave Rei a big hug.

Rei didn't have the hobby of hugging men, but seeing Ranga's big smile, he gave a sigh in his mind and just accepted it.

"Captain, captain. About this. Rei looks quite bothered about it."

"Oh, ah. My bad."

Ranga pulled himself together at his subordinates words and released Rei.

"No, that's fine.....what's the matter, all of a sudden?"

"What's the matter.....I heard from the members of Wind's Blades that you fought against the rare species Gamelion. They said that you were fine, but I was worried until I actually saw you."

".....Ah."

Hearing Ranga's explanation, Rei immediately understood. Next to him, Hasta nodded as well.

"Have they arrived safely?"

"None of them were missing. However, I was shocked that the cart they had borrowed had been destroyed by monsters."

".....Ah."

Similar to Rei a few seconds ago, a sound of understanding came from Hasta's mouth. However, unlike Rei's, it was somewhat sympathetic.

To Hasta, who had no money to spare, he was no stranger to having to go out to complete requests in winter, as Wind's Blades had talked about.

"Well, at the very least I've confirmed that both of you are safe....."

"Guru~"

As if to say don't forget about me, Set poked out his head from between Rei and Hasta.

Seeing that, Ranga offered some dried meat.

"Of course I wouldn't forget about Set. It's also great that you're back safely."

"Gurururu~"

Giving a proud cry, Set grabbed the dried meat that Ranga presented in his beak.

Stroking his head, Ranga turned to Rei again.

"Well then, let's complete the procedures to enter the city.That said, it's great that you're all fine."

Ranga said that quietly to himself. He knew that Margrave Daska had a high evaluation of Rei's fighting power and he felt the same himself. As expected of the person his lord wanted to take in, he fought against a rare species of Gamelion, that was currently a popular ingredient in the city, and killed it..... thinking about that, it was no wonder that Ranga breathed a sigh of relief.

After showing his guild card as usual, he received the Necklace of Subservient Monster and completed the procedures to reenter the city.

"Ah, Ranga-san. I believe that Gamelion dishes will be served at the restaurant my family runs in a few days, so please come to eat if you feel like it. I will tell my father to provide some extra service for the various concerns I have caused."

As they left, Hasta smartly advertised his family restaurant.

"Ahh.....seeing the surroundings like this makes me feel like I'm back at home."

Seeing the people walking about the city, Rei muttered to himself.

Because the city of Gilm was on the frontier, it was hard to say that it had a lively atmosphere. However, there were still quite a few people busily walking through the city.

Perhaps there were some people who wanted to go home early to warm themselves up from the cold.

Only in a frontier city like Gilm would various rare materials and magic stones gather. Of course, they were exported to other cities, towns and villages. But on the contrary, because merchants would come over to buy them, there was always a certain number of people in downtown. And as autumn was nearing its end, before winter came in earnest, a lot of merchants had come over.....there were plenty more people in the city of Gilm than usual.

Among them were merchants who hadn't come to the city of Gilm for a long time or merchants that had come for the first time. Them and their adventurer escorts were startled seeing Set and would fall back unintentionally. Accustomed to that sight, Rei, Hasta and Set continued walking down the main street in the direction of the library.

"Ah, here it is."

Saying that, Hasta turned into a side street just before the library. They walked for about 5 minutes down the narrow road that could be called a back alley. Eventually, they saw a restaurant with a signboard hanging out with [The Satisfied Stomach]written on it.

"Heh.....it's quite nice."

Rei couldn't believe it was in a back alley. It was nice enough to the extent that it wouldn't appear strange as a big restaurant on the main street.

"Ahahaha. That's because we've just rebuilt it.Well, thanks to the money we borrowed."

"In order to help return it, you wanted to get some Gamelion meat, isn't that right?"

"Yes, well, that's right.....even if we sold dishes made from Gamelion meat, that doesn't mean we'll be able to return all our debts. "

"So, what do you plan to do? Although the place looks pretty popular and you've gone to get some Gamelion meat, your father would still be worried about it."

".....I guess so. It can't be helped, let's just wait until all the customers have left."

Saying that, Hasta proposed that they went somewhere else to kill some time.

But at that moment, a young girl under the age of 10 unexpectedly came out from the entrance of the restaurant and looked at Hasta with an expression of surprise before shouting back into the restaurant with a big smile.

"Ah, it's onii-chan. Mother, father. Onii-chan is back!"

"Ah, is that so? Then why hasn't he come in?"

"I don't know! But he has a friend.....ah, it's Set-chan. Set-chan is over there!"

The girl, who was looking at Rei puzzled, raised a cheer and ran over to hug Set as soon as she saw him.

"Set-chan, you're so fluffy and warm!"

"Gururu~"

The girl clung tightly to Set with an expression that was enchanted by his smooth fur and touch.

At the girl's reaction, Set gave a somewhat troubled cry.

"Is she your sister?"

"Ah, yes. She's my younger sister, Arka. Hey, Arka, Set is feeling troubled so let him go."

"No! I haven't played properly with Set today!"

Arka shook her head as she clung to Set. Every time she shook her head, her green braided hair shook intensely.

"Hasta, Arka, what's wrong?Ah, are you a customer?"

Wondering what Arka was up to, a middle aged woman in her forties with a good natured smile came out from the restaurant entrance.

"Ah, mother. Mm. You see, you know how I told you I was going to hunt Gamelions yesterday? Rei-san helped me with that."

"Well.....Hasta didn't cause too much trouble for you did he?"

Getting asked in a somewhat leisurely tone, Rei was lost for a moment but he soon nodded in reply.

"There were no problems. As expected of someone who has been a rank D adventurer for over a year."

"That's not true. I can't kill a Gamelion by myself like Rei-san can....."

Involuntarily, Hasta immediately interjected, but Rei shook his head.

"In the first place, a Gamelion is a rank C monster. You are rank D, you would be too proud if you thought that you could solo one by yourself."

"Now that you say it, that's definitely true.....as expected, Rei's strength was absolutely necessary....."

Remembering Rei's fight with the rare species in his mind, Hasta gave a sigh.

"First of all, you two haven't had dinner yet right? So come in and eat together."

"Eh? But there are still so many customers....."

"It's all fine. I won't tell you who's more important between the customers and my son who just came back from a dangerous hunt. Here, Rei-san was it. You too."

".....Is that okay?"

Rei asked as he glanced towards the restaurant.

Certainly, the restaurant was still quite crowded as Hasta said. There weren't any customers lining up, but you could still imagine it was quite busy inside. However.

"I can't just leave out someone who has taken care of my son. In addition....."

At that point, Hasta's mother stopped talking. Looking ahead, Arka was still hugging Set.

"It seems Arka doesn't want to leave. I would be grateful if you could stay. Ahh, that's right. It's a late introduction but I'm Hasta's mother, Enedra. Nice to meet you."

With a warm smile, Enedra bowed her head.

While a bit puzzled over her gentle attitude, Rei was guided into the restaurant by Hasta and Enedra.

"Set, I'll leave the girl to you."

"Guru~"

Saying that before going in, Set heard it and replied with a gentle cry after

getting used to Arka's actions.

".....The business is a lot better than what I could see from the outside."

Rei mumbled that as he entered the restaurant.

About 80% of the seats were filled. Dinner dishes of stew, ale and wine, dried meat, stir-fried food and salad were being passed back and forth. Naturally, the customers who were eating were also talking lively. The place was bustling with noise.

"Here, Rei-san, Hasta. Please take a seat. I'll bring some food soon."

"I see. Thank you very much."

"Mother, I would like some Fang Boar stew."

"Yes, yes. Your favourite food will be served. Um, Rei-san. Do you drink?"

"Ah.....well, just a light one."

Nodding with a smile at Rei's words, Enedra walked familiarly past the tables and went into the kitchen.

"Your mother is very generous."

"Yes, well. Saying that she's generous, there are also naturally some troubling moments."

While saying that, the smile on his face made it easy to tell he liked his mother's personality.

They probably had a good parent-child relationship. Thinking about that, Rei asked about Hasta's future plans.

"So, what do you plan to do now? Should I tell your father about the dish I'm familiar with?"

"Well, I would appreciate it greatly if you did. By the way, how much meat is used in the dish you know about?"

"Not much. It is an ingredient but it's not the main one."

"Heh~. I'm looking forward to it. We sell alcohol here, but since this is still a restaurant, we will be closing in under 2 hours. Would you be able to tell us then?"

"I don't mind."

Despite saying that, remembering the dish he wanted to tell.....he suddenly

thought of something.

(It will be nice to tell them about udon, but since there's not soy sauce or miso, what do I do about the broth.....? If this was close to the sea there might have been fish sauce, but there is no sea nearby. In that case, do you just eat the udon in stew or soup? Well, I guess there's still curry udon.No, the only thing I can provide is udon, I'll just have to leave the method of eating to the chef. There's no reason that soy sauce and miso would exist in a different world. I don't know how to make them either.)

While a bit flustered in his mind, he decided to leave the cooking to the people who actually knew how to do it.

"Here, I've kept you waiting. Stewed Fang Boar and baked bread. Vegetable soup and cheese and ham sandwiches. Lastly, a cup of ale."

Maybe considering it as a way to pay Rei back for his help, dishes were placed onto the table one after another as Enedra said them.

"Wow, it looks delicious. Thanks mother."

"It definitely looks delicious. I'll eat without reserve."

"Yes. Because we're quite proud of our dishes, go ahead."

Saying that with a smile, Enedra left the next moment after being called by other customers.

Although there were several other employees, Enedra was also busy due to the large number of customers. Seeing that, Rei and Hasta started eating.

".....Delicious."

It didn't just look delicious, it was delicious. In fact, as he brought a portion of the Fang Board stew to his mouth, the fatty part of the stewed meat slowly disappeared as if melting. Only the meaty portion remained, but it still delighted Rei's tongue. Next, he took a bite of the bread and filled the rest of his mouth with salad to clear up the thick taste.

(Certainly, if it's cooked as well as these dishes, it will definitely be popular. However, I'm still a bit regretful.....)

Glancing at the stew and Fang Boar meat stuck on the tip of his fork, Rei gave

a sigh while Hasta was absorbed in eating.

(Is this is the so-called western style stew? Since there's no soy sauce, simmering pork or Fang Boar in soy sauce is impossible. If I recall correctly, the ingredients were soy sauce, sugar, mirin and ginger?)

Remembering the cooking show he had seen on TV before, he gave a sigh again.

(I have checked that sugar and ginger are sold in the markets. But, there's no mirin or soy sauce. Either way, I don't know how to make them. Was soy sauce made from soy beans?)

While thinking to himself, Rei slowly tasted the delicious food.